

S/N: 10/672,867

Atty Dkt No. GP-302099/GM0406PUS

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A vehicle door comprising:

an inner panel; an outer panel operatively connected to the inner panel such that the inner panel and the outer panel define a door cavity therebetween; and a side impact member including an impact beam and a rub strip comprised of a material that is molded around at least a portion of the impact beam; the side impact member being connected to at least one of the inner panel and the outer panel such that at least a the portion of the impact beam is outboard of the outer panel and the material separates the portion of the impact beam and the outer panel.

2. (original) The vehicle door of claim 1, wherein the outer panel is characterized by an outboard surface; and wherein the outboard surface defines a concavity in which at least a portion of the impact beam is located.

3. (currently amended) The vehicle door of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the impact beam is concealed from view by ~~[[a]]~~ the rub strip.

4-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The vehicle door of claim 1, wherein the door is characterized by a first wall and a second wall; wherein the door further comprises a hinge operatively connected to the first wall and a latch operatively connected to the second wall; and wherein the impact beam includes a first flange extending from the forward end of the impact beam and a second flange extending from the rearward end of the impact beam, the first flange being connected to the first wall and the second flange

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being connected to the second wall to transfer side impact loads from the impact beam is  
operatively connected to the first wall and the second wall and, correspondingly, to  
transfer side impact loads to the hinge and the latch.

7. (currently amended) A side impact member for a vehicle door having an  
inner panel and an outer panel, the side impact member comprising an impact beam and a  
rub strip material connected to formed around at least a portion of the impact beam;  
wherein the impact beam and rub strip material are matable to one of the inner panel and  
the outer panel such that the portion of the impact beam is outboard of the outer panel,  
the rub strip material separates the outer panel and the portion of the impact beam, and  
the rub strip material conceals the portion of the impact beam from view.

8-9. (cancelled)

10. (original) The side impact member of claim 7, wherein the vehicle  
door includes a first wall, a second wall, a hinge operatively connected to the first wall,  
and a latch operatively connected to the second wall; and wherein the side impact  
member further comprises a first plate at a first end of the impact beam operatively  
connectable to the first wall to transfer impact loads to the hinge, and a second plate at a  
second end of the impact beam operatively connectable to the second wall to transfer  
impact loads to the latch.

11. (currently amended) A vehicle door comprising:

an outer panel having an outboard surface defining a concavity;

an inner panel operatively connected to the outer panel such that the inner  
panel and the outer panel define a door cavity therebetween, the inner panel including a  
forward wall and a rearward wall;

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an impact beam operatively connected to the forward wall and the rearward wall such that at least a portion of the impact beam is outboard of the outer panel and located within the concavity; and

a rub strip material operatively connected at least a portion of the impact beam such that at least a portion of the impact beam is concealed from view and the rub strip is between at least a portion of the impact beam and the outer panel.